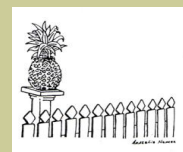


Saxe Gotha Dispatch



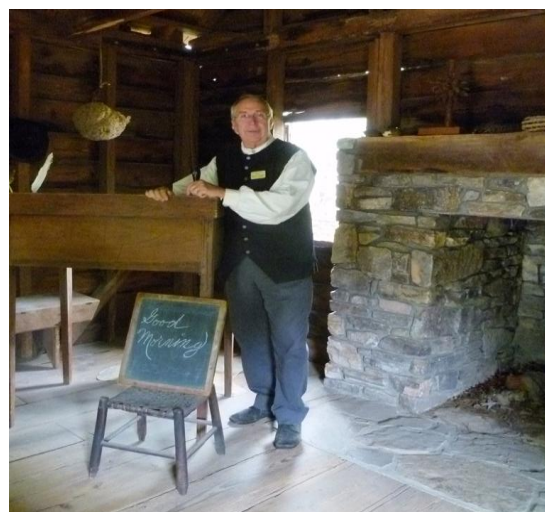
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Spring Open House a Success Despite Rain

Around one hundred people braved the slightly chilly rain on Sunday May 5 and explored the museum at its annual Spring Open House. Visitors were able to roam the grounds of the museum, enjoy lemonade and a variety of cookies, and tour many of the museum's thirty historic structures.

Children attending the open house were able to take part in programs and a scavenger hunt. Many children wrote their names with a quill pen and played with reproduction historic toys and games. Visitors were also able to see the newly restored bedroom of the John Fox House and quilts that were moved into the display room of the Horace



Harmon Jr. Exhibit Hall.

Before the open house, the Friends of the Lexington County Museum had their annual open house. At that meeting, new officers and trustees were installed.

The Museum's open house events are a great time for visitors to learn

more about the museum and the county's history. It also gives visitors the opportunity to explore buildings not normally featured on the typical hour long tour. Be on the lookout for the next one!

Museum Upcoming Outreach Efforts

Museum director J.R. Fennell spoke at the Fraysee/Guess/Robinson family reunion on May 11. Fennell gave a presentation on life in South Carolina in the 19th

and early 20th centuries. Fennell also gave a presentation on the history of Lexington County on May 16th at the Lexington Main Library.

Museum staff were also present at the Mill Creek Elementary Career Fair on May 14th to discuss history careers and gave a presentation at Sandhills Elementary in Swansea on May 17th.

Meet Historical Interpreter Mike Spears



"I feel like I'm an ambassador for Lexington County and South Carolina"

Mike is one of the most recognizable faces of the Lexington County Museum. Visitors to the museum have been greeted with his friendly booming voice and cheerful demeanor for ten years. Mike began working as a tour guide and educator at the museum in 2003 and recently received an award from the county for his 10 year anniversary. He loves teaching people about the history of our county and famously adds trivia and colorful facts to the tours he gives, especially working in "South Carolina firsts" whenever he can.

Mike was born in Conway, Arkansas and moved to the Columbia area as a child. He attended Columbia High School for three years and graduated from Lexington High School in 1966. He credits

his family and annual trips to Arkansas with instilling within him a love of history at an early age. His family kept excellent records of their history and Mike is particularly proud of the members who have served their country. He boasts that his Great-Great-Grandfather was a full-blooded Cherokee Indian who fought for the Confederacy at Vicksburg. Mike also served in the Army and was given the opportunity to travel the World which further expanded his love of historic places. He jokes that when he goes on road trips he often annoys his family members by insisting they stop at nearly every historic marker they come across

Mike approaches every visitor to the museum with full enthusiasm. We can always count on him to

recommend local restaurants and other unique attractions for our out of town guests to visit. "I feel like I'm an ambassador for Lexington County and South Carolina," he says. The museum gets thousands of visitors from out-of-state each year. When Mike meets someone who lives in the area and has never been to the museum he is known to mockingly say, "Shame on you!"

Can't get enough of Mike Spears? He also leads tours at the South Carolina State House on Mondays.

Museum Acquires Four Historic Silver Spoons

The Lexington County Museum acquired four historic silver spoons in May 2013. These spoons were made by John Veal in Columbia, SC, probably around 1850 although they could be older. These spoons have an unknown inscription on

the handle.

These pieces of silverware will greatly enhance the museum's silver collection and help us interpret the everyday lives of upper class Lexington citizens in the mid-nineteenth century.

Visit the museum to see these and other great artifacts.

Restoration Work at the Museum Taking Place

Thanks to the funds successfully raised by the Friends of the Lexington County Museum at the 2013 fundraiser "Celebrating Lexington High School's Centennial," the museum has been able to have some repairs and restoration work completed. So far, the funds have been used to pay for pressure washing and painting the

Leaphart/Harman house exterior, cleaning the outbuilding roofs, repairing the siding of the John Fox House kitchen, repairing the siding and windows of the post office, repairing a leak in the Hazelius House roof, and installing a new linoleum floor for the Hazelius House kitchen and bathrooms.

We hope to use the

remaining funds to repair the historic slave pen near the barns on the museum property and to repair the Lorick House porch. These repairs would not be possible without the generosity of the donors and the hard work of the Friends of the Lexington County Museum.



Museum and Planning Dept. Create Virtual Tour

Lexington County's Planning and GIS Department has partnered with the Lexington County Museum to create a virtual tour of historic sites and structures that exist or once existed in Lexington County.

The map tour will allow people to see historic photos of the structure or site and then see a

modern photo. Another photo will show the historic photo superimposed on the modern photo. Doing this gives a sense of how the county has changed and gives viewers a better idea where some of the structures were in relation to existing structures or landmarks. The virtual tour will allow people to

see the past and make people more aware of the rich history of the county. Structures in the tour include the old courthouse, the jail, Dreher's Canal, and Lexington's Old Mill.

To see the virtual tour and learn more, visit: <http://maps.lex-co.com/heritagetour/>.

"The virtual tour will allow people to see the past and make people more aware of the rich history of the county."

Museum Visitation in March and April 2013

The Museum had a large number of visitors and school groups in March and April.

In March, the museum saw 647 total visitors including visitors from eleven states other than

SC as well as visitors from Canada, Germany and France.

In April, the museum saw 2,438 total visitors including school groups. Visitors came from thirteen states other than

SC and Canada and France.

School groups from Barnwell, Fairfield, Lexington, and Richland Counties took part in our free programs as well.

Lexington County Museum

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Gateway to Yesterday



We're on the Web!
www.lex-co.sc.gov/museum

The Lexington County Museum was started in 1970 to collect, preserve and present the history of Lexington County. After initially having only one historic house, the museum expanded and now has thirty historic structures over seven acres in downtown Lexington. Through exhibits in historic houses, the museum interprets everyday life in the town of Lexington and throughout Lexington County from the eighteenth century to the start of the Civil War. The museum offers guided tours to visitors for a small fee and has thirteen different hands-on programs for school groups free of charge by appointment. These programs attract schools from around the state and educate students about the history of Lexington County and about the everyday life of Lexington County residents in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

The Friends of the Lexington County Museum is a non-profit group founded in 1997 with an advisory board, officers, and a board of trustees representing all municipalities in Lexington County. Its mission is to enhance the Lexington County Museum through its duly appointed commission and to support, aid, and assist in the improvement and expansion of the Museum. The Friends group sponsors fund-raising projects to help further the Museum's valuable contribution to the county, including the project described below. The Friends group has raised over \$270,000 for the museum so far. To learn more about the Friends or to join, visit the museum's webpage (www.lex-co.sc.gov/museum).

Highlighted Artifact from the Museum's Collections

Starting with this issue, the *Saxe Gotha Dispatch* will begin featuring a highlighted artifact from the collections of the museum. This issue's artifact is a pair of black ladies high top shoes. The shoes are made of cotton sateen with leather soles and heels. They feature beaded florets on the toes as well. This pair belonged to Louisa George Hayes who lived from 1836 to 1913 and was married to Bolivar Hayes, who recorded the 1860 census.

